Investigation into irregularities in a Samiti

*333. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 3252 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Inquiry Officer who has been entrusted the investigation of alleged embezzlement of public money has not initiated the investigation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the name of the designated officer to whom the members of the said Society can contact for early settlement of their claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Inquiry Officer appointed in the case has initiated the process of inquiry by issuing statutory notices to the parties concerned as required under section 59(1) of The Delhi Co-operative Societies Act, 1972.

(c) Shri Mange Ram, Assistant Registrar, who is the Inquiry Officer in this case and Shri Ramesh Chandra, Assistant Registrar (South), in the office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Parliament Street, New Delhi had been designated for the purpose.

Naval Base Project Seabird, Karnataka

*334. SHRI K.V. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new naval base Project Seabird near Karwar (Karnataka) was envisaged in the Naval Plan 1980—85 to be completed by 1995;

(b) whether the original project outlay of Rs. 350 crore in 1985 escalated to Rs. 1295 crore in 1995, despite reduction in scope by more than 50 per cent; and

(c) whether the rehabilitation package for the displaced families is in place and if so, when the project is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In August 1985 the Ministry of Defence approved the construction of a Naval Base at Karwar at an initial estimated expenditure of Rs. 350.00 crores. The initial estimates were indicative and were made without a Master Plan and a Detailed Project Report. The scope of work, different Sub components of the Dockyard and details regarding supporting Infrastructure had not been worked out. In the year 1989 a Consultant was appointed to draw the Master Plan and detailed Project report for Phase-1-A and 1-B of the Project. The Consultant submitted his report in 1990. However, the Project could not progress further due to financial constraints. Based on the Final Project Report, with reduced scope of Phase-I, when compared with the initial proposal and keeping in view the escalation of price level in the meantime, the Ministry of Defence finally approved in October 1995 the construction of Phase-I of the Project at a projected cost of Rs. 1294.41 crores.

The rehabilitation package finalized in consultation with the State Government, included *interalia,* a cash allowance and a house site, education stipend, and relief for food and medicines. The rehabilitation Project has been finalized at a total amount of Rs. 126.96 crores and State Government of Karnataka has already been paid a sum of Rs. 117.02 crores. The Balance amount will be paid on Audit of accounts.

The Project is scheduled to be completed by 2005.

Cases of car theft in Delhi

*335. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of theft cases of car reported in the Capital during the last six months and how do they compare with the cases reported during the corresponding period last year;

(b) in how may cases cars have been traced and what is the number of criminals arrested; and

(c) whether theft cases of car are showing upward trends and if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?